

Cuban Film Says Anti-Castro Group Killed Kennedy

Port 11/28/93
Reuter

HAVANA, Nov. 27—A Cuban security official said in a television documentary Friday night that two Cuban counterrevolutionaries and three gangsters fired shots in President John F. Kennedy's assassination and that his killing was part of a wide-ranging conspiracy.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina made clear today that Cuban authorities viewed the documentary's conclusions as a response to any past suggestions that Havana was involved in the assassination. "We have always had our reservations over the way in which there was a desire . . . to try to implicate Cuba's involvement," Robaina said.

It was the first time Cuba has presented a Kennedy-assassination conspiracy theory. The official Warren Commission report said the president was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald and that no evidence of a conspiracy could be found.

But Gen. Fabian Escalante Font, an Interior Ministry official, said Cuban investigations showed that "four to five [gunshots] from various positions" were fired at Kennedy by Leonard Patrick, David Yaras and Richard Gaines, alleged members of Chicago organized crime syndicates, and Cuban exiles Eladio del Valle and Herminio Diaz Garcia.

Escalante did not disclose what evidence Cuba had to prove this.

The documentary described del Valle as a one-time intelligence officer of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and Diaz Garcia as a former aide of former Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo.

Escalante also named other people he said were conspiracy backers or masterminds and operational coordinators from organized crime, the CIA and Cuban counterrevolutionary circles.